



Marines take a tour with the STAR program. See story, Page 17.

Marines open GAIT to training

Lance Cpl. Damian McGee

Combat Correspondent

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION FUTENMA — The Marines of Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-265 recently participated in a weeklong Ground Air Integrated Training exercise.

“We’re trying to get our ground and air

elements in sync,” said Capt. Ray Pursel, a CH-46 pilot, HMM-265, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing.

According to officials, during the exercise, the Marines must prepare for any situation conceivable. If it could happen during wartime then it is factored into the equation.

“There are anti-aircraft artillery zones, surface-to-air missiles, remote piloted grenades, and terrorists elements factored into the exercises,” said Lance Cpl. William Holder, intelligence analyst, HMM-265.

Infantry Marines from Companies I and L, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marines, also participated in the exercise. All of HMM-265’s air assets were included in the exercise.

“This mission integrates every type-model airplane on the flight line into one mission,” said Maj. Matthew Glavy, executive officer, HMM-265.

The idea of using all the aircraft enables the pilots to practice a process called deconfliction, according to Glavy.



LANCE CPL. DAMIAN

Two CH-53E helicopters line up in preparation for take off during a portion of the GAIT exercises. The exercise trained the Marines how to prepare for to different situations.

Deconfliction is the process of taking time, space and altitude into account so all planes are able to complete their missions without interfering with allied aircraft.

“We try to deconflict, so we don’t have two planes at the same place, at the same time,” Glavy said.

Deconfliction, along with other scenarios, is used to make the exercise realistic.

“We try to make the exercise and the tactics we use as real as possible,” Glavy said. “We practice like we’re going to play. We’re practicing so that hopefully no one wants to take us on.”

Online shoppers receive free delivery with orders

Lance Cpl. Chad Swaim

Combat Correspondent

CAMP FOSTER — SERVEMART Express, formerly U-call We-haul, is the program that allows units to do their shopping online. Units from any branch of service on-island can order supplies and have them delivered for free right to their door.

Units with Internet access can log on to the website and place an order for any Direct Service Stock Control product. Items on the website are listed by national stock number, but can also be found by searching by name.

“Our turnaround time averages between one and three days,” said Gunnery Sgt. Sin Tunstall, staff noncommissioned officer-in-charge, DSSC, Marine Corps Base.

Once an order is verified, it is given to the warehouse and the items can be gathered.

Before delivery, the DSSC drivers call the shop where the supplies are being delivered to make sure someone is there to receive them. There is no extra charge for delivery.

By delivering supplies to the customer’s door, the service saves time and increase efficiency for the customer, according to Staff Sgt. Robert G. Wolf, S-4, Command Element, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit.

“The service is great, they delivered a whole pallet of paper right to our building,” Wolf said.

“If it’s not urgent just go onto the Internet and we will deliver it for you,” Tunstall said.

The SERVEMART website can be found at <http://mcsd4.ala.usmc.mil/MCBBUTLER/SERVEMART/>.



PFC KATHY J ARNDT

Calling long distance

Pfc. Beau D. Tanner (left), refrigerator mechanic, and Lance Cpl. Samuel D. Ring, ground mobile forces operator, from 7th Communication Battalion, III Marine Expeditionary Force, set up satellite dishes on Camp Foster and Camp Courtney Aug. 10

“The training is to simulate how we would communicate in war time,” said Cpl. Kenneth Hart, ground mobile forces operator, 7th Comm. Bn., III MEF.

Former III MEF Marine receives Gray Trophy

Sgt. Ronna M. Weyland

MCB, Quantico, Va.

WASHINGTON — More than one hundred distinguished guests, including the Commandant of the Marine Corps, turned out July 29 to honor the first recipient of the Alfred M. Gray Trophy during a ceremony at Fort Lesley J. McNair.

Capt. Charles D. Walker was recognized as the first Marine to receive the award, named after the 29th Commandant of the Marine Corps, for outstanding Command and Control Systems leadership.

“I am honored to receive this award and was surprised to hear I had won when the ALMAR [028/00] came out,” Walker said. “Never in 15 years have I done any job to get awards or medals. I just do the job the best I can in order to accomplish the mission.”

Walker participated in Cobra Gold 2000 while assigned to G-6 Operations, III Marine Expeditionary Force. The Joint Task Force was responsible for bringing video teleconferencing to the Western Pacific for the first time.

“Giving this trophy to West Pac sends a message to Marines and communicators that we are doing great things and it recognizes the importance of communication,” said the Iron Mountain, Mich., native.

Walker was chosen out of a final selection of 10 nominations. Coming from Okinawa, Japan, he will start the Command and Control Systems Course at Quantico Va. Aug. 4.

“Walker’s leadership and dedication to mission accomplishment were the critical factors in providing the accurate, comprehensive and robust communications capability necessary to execute multiple directed exercises,” said Col. Dennis Thompson, G-6, III MEF, in his nomination package.

Gen. Gray presented the trophy and said he felt the award to the information technology field, or communicators, was long overdue.

“When I was first asked about this award and having my name on it, I said it would be fine if it was in honor of all the splendid warriors that I have served with through the years and the ones who did so much to make command and control happen,” Gen. Gray said.

The trophy, modeled after Joseph Christian Leyendecker’s painting, Signaling Marines, was named after Gray for his efforts and contributions to command, control, communications and intelligence.

It is the first award to be given for performance and leadership for Marines in command and control systems positions.

The award was brought to life in 1999 when a Sprint Communications Company representative contacted the Marine Corps University Foundation to start an endowment of an award for the Command and Control Systems Officer of the Year for the Marine Corps.

After contact was made with Col. Michael Warlick, MCU, a \$20,000 endowment to MCU Foundation from Sprint established the Gray Trophy “to recognize a company grade officer for his or her ability to support warfighting in a highly dynamic and rapidly changing information technology environment.”

The trophy will be an annual award for communicators.



SGT. RONNA M. WEYLAND
Capt. Charles D. Walker is congratulated by former Commandant Gen. Alfred M. Gray and Commandant Gen. James L. Jones as the recipient of the first Alfred M. Gray Trophy.

Military Fantasy Career Contest announces winners

DoD in cooperation with Yahoo! Inc. chooses one winner from each branch of service

Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense Public Affairs

WASHINGTON — The Department of Defense, in cooperation with Yahoo! Inc., on Aug. 8 announced the winners of the “Yahoo! Fantasy Careers in Today’s Military Contest.” Each of the military services, Army, Navy, Marine, Air Force and Coast Guard, selected one winner to experience one of the challenging careers available in today’s military.

The winners and their corresponding fantasy are listed below:

Army: Rosalyn S. Smith, 18, from Marietta, Ga., will train with an Apache helicopter pilot, airborne paratroopers and experience an actual tandem jump with the world-renowned Army Golden Knights. Smith is currently a full-time student at Kennesaw State University.

Navy: Joseph W. Blondo, 31, from Budd Lake, N.J., will fly to an Atlantic Fleet aircraft carrier, join in flight operations and observe operations in the combat director’s center aboard this veritable floating city. Blondo is an 8th grade U.S.

history teacher at South Plainfield Middle School, South Plain, N.J.

Air Force: Dale E. Zimmerman, 22, from Junction City, Ore., will experience a two-day adventure as an honorary F-15 pilot-in-training. Zimmerman is a customer service representative for United Airlines.

Marines: Richard A. Castanet, 47, from Richmond, Va., will test his physical and mental capabilities by going through The Basic School of the U.S. Marine Corps and be taught how the Marines translate leadership instincts into action. Castanet is a professional sales engineer and account manager.

Coast Guard: Stephanie Kelley, 22, from Stow, Mass., will experience the many facets of search and rescue operations, including training as a rescue swimmer, riding in a 47-foot self-righting boat and studying the skills of helicopter rescue. Kelley recently graduated from Duke University with a degree in biology.

This contest enabled Internet users the opportunity to experience a “day in the life” of either a soldier, Sailor, airman, Marine or Coast Guardsman. The contest generated 3,355 essays that were considered by the services in determining the ultimate winners. The contest is part of a broader awareness initiative to inform Internet users of career opportunities available in the military.



LANCE CPL. KIMBERLY S. DOWELL

CFC donations pay off

(left to right) Bobbie Williams, wife of Col. Willie J. Williams, commander, Marine Corps Base, Camp Smedly D. Butler; Col. Roger Farmer, chief of staff, Marine Corps Bases Japan; his wife, Bonnie Farmer; and International Service Agencies President, Renee' Acosta, pose with an enlarged version of a donation check. An \$8,713.47 check was presented to Col. Farmer Aug.9. The money represents donations collected during the 1999 Combined Federal Campaign for the Family Support and Youth Programs charity. Each year, Marines have the opportunity to pledge money to a charity, among their options is the FSYP. “Donating to FSYP is giving to home,” Acosta said. One hundred percent of the donations made to FYSP is returned to the service members, according to Acosta. It is used to fund programs geared toward improving the quality of life for service members and their families. The office visit provided Acosta and Jack Adams, CFC Overseas Pacific director, the opportunity to discuss command support of the 2000 CFC that begins Oct. 2.



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Marine Corps awards \$18K for beneficial suggestion

Sgt. Gilbert Mclean receives cash for designing faster and more efficient way to track officer promotions

Sgt. Daryl G. Sanford

MCB, Quantico, Va.

MARINE CORPS BASE, Quantico, Va. — A sergeant in the officer promotion section here was recently recognized with an \$18,000 cash award under the Marine Corps Military Incentives Program for designing a faster, more efficient way to track officer promotions.

Sgt. Gilbert McLean, computer programmer, designed the computer database because he thought the old way was causing too many problems.

“When he first came in here, he told me he could redesign the system,” said Maj. Donna Petit, officer promotions section. “I told him to go ahead and try it, but I didn’t think he would find a better way. I didn’t want to crush his initiative.”

The previous database, which consisted of six separate programs, was written 15 years ago in R-Base, an archaic database software. In 1989, civilian contractors were paid \$500,000 to redesign the system in D-Base, another database program. But it couldn’t handle the huge amount of information, and performed very slowly, and ended up to be worse than the current system of the time.

McLean’s idea was different. Instead of building an entire program from scratch, he used a database program which exists on most government computers, Microsoft Access.

“Because it was already purchased by the government when they bought Windows 98, we could use

it,” he said. “I did some preliminary testing, and I found that it could handle the amount of information we had.”

It took McLean almost a year to develop the program; working before and after working hours and on weekends. After solving most problems on paper, six months after he started the project, he began to build the huge database on the computer.

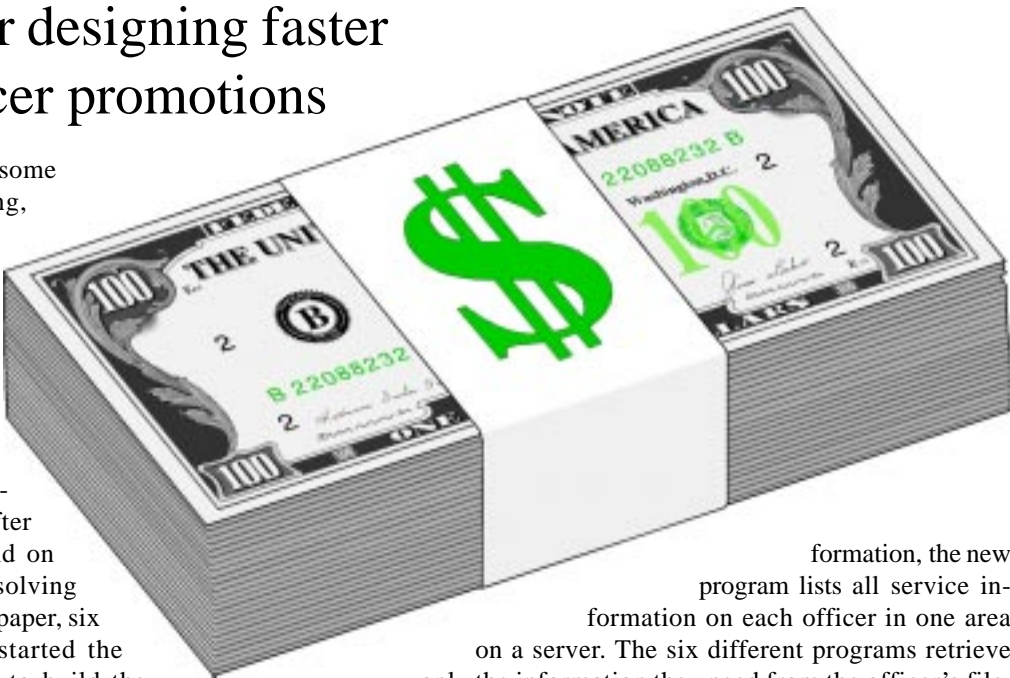
“I spent one year designing it, working things through my head, to make sure things worked,” he said.

With the old database, the chance of discrepancies was high. Instead of all the information in one place, there were six different databases.

Because of this, accuracy problems occurred in promotion and frocking, and there was some inconsistency of information at the promotions branch and Marine Total Force Systems.

The new program began in December and after working through a few problems with tracking information, the program is now running smoothly.

To solve the accuracy problems with promotion in-



formation, the new program lists all service information on each officer in one area on a server. The six different programs retrieve only the information they need from the officer’s file, and no other location. Officer’s records are also cross-checked with the Marine Corps Total Force System using another program, McLean wrote.

“The level of accuracy in our records is much greater,” he said. “This program eliminates just about all the human error. The officer corps should benefit from this program.”

McLean plans to spend his award wisely.

“I plan to pay off all my debts, and use the rest of the money to start investing for retirement,” he said.

Anyone who wishes to submit an idea which will benefit the Marine Corps can contact the Marine Corps Military Incentives Program, or read the current Marine Corps Order 1650.17.

Defense Secretary approves NATO medal for wear

Only one NATO medal is authorized for participation in operations related to Kosovo

Sgt. A.C. Strong

HQMC Public Affairs Office

WASHINGTON — The Secretary of Defense recently approved the wearing of the NATO medal for service members and civilians who participated in operations related to Kosovo.

Only one NATO medal is authorized for wear as wearing two or more NATO

medals or ribbons is prohibited for the U.S. military.

A bronze service star on the first NATO award is to be used to indicate multiple awards.

Currently, there are two NATO medals - Yugoslavia and Kosovo.

Marines and fellow servicemembers who participated in NATO operations for a minimum of 30 days in the area of eli-

gibility are qualified to wear the medal.

The AOE is the land, sea, or air space of Kosovo, other territories of the Republic of Yugoslavia, Albania, Macedonia, and the Adriatic and Ionian seas.

The operations include: Allied Force; Joint Guardian; Allied Harbor; Sustain Hope/Shining Hope; Noble Anvil; and Kosovo Task Forces Hawk, Saber, Falcon, or Hunter.

Aircrew members participating in operation Allied Force between Mar. 24, 1999 and June 24, 1999, qualify after flying 15 sorties in Kosovo and territories

of the former Republic of Yugoslavia.

In addition, individuals who were injured requiring evacuation from the defined AOE, regardless of time length, qualify.

The award will not be available until January 2001. However, commands should process applicants and make the required service record entries, according to Navy Administrative Message 162/00.

A Marine Administrative Message is expected to be released soon, with clarification on Marine specific issues.

Rifle team stands up to tough competition at interservice match

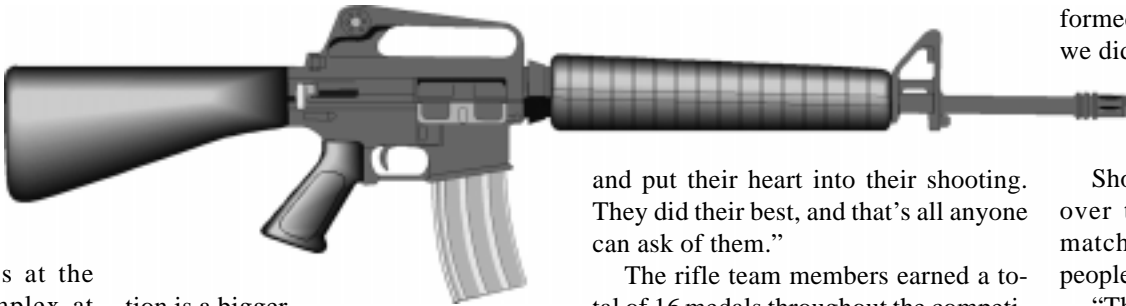
Cpl. James Covington

HQMC Public Affairs Office

WASHINGTON — The Marine Corps Rifle Team stood up to the toughest shooting competition in the military at the 39th Annual Interservice Rifle Championship Matches at the Calvin A. Lloyd Range Complex at Weapons Training Battalion, Quantico, Va., July 17-25.

Members of the Marine Corps team won six of the 14 matches that make up the interservice championships. Four wins were in individual matches and two were in team competition.

“The most positive thing is the experience we’ve gained as a team,” said Sgt. William Janssen, instructor/competitor, Marine Corps Rifle Team. “This is the first time a lot of our people have shot competitively in a contest this big. This is the all-services championships. For some of us in the military, this competi-



tion is a bigger deal than the national championships.”

The Marine Corps team won the Interservice 1000-yard team match and the Commanding General, Marine Corps Combat Development Command team match. They fell short in the Interservice Rifle Team Championship Match, which the Army Marksmanship Unit won.

“We didn’t win the big one,” said CWO-3 Gene Rucks, the officer-in-charge of the Marine Corps Rifle Team. “I am disappointed we didn’t win, but I’m not disappointed in my Marines. I think everybody on the team worked very hard

and put their heart into their shooting. They did their best, and that’s all anyone can ask of them.”

The rifle team members earned a total of 16 medals throughout the competition.

“All of our shooters showed brilliance on the firing line,” said Gunnery Sgt. Carlos Hathcock III, a rifle team coach for the interservice matches. “Whether or not they won, or even placed, they showed brilliance, and I’m proud of them all.”

The Marine Corps team had high hopes going into the competition and has reason to be pleased with their performance.

“We performed very well,” said Sgt. Duane Ledford, an instructor/competitor on the rifle team. “Individually we per-

formed better than we hoped. As a team, we didn’t do quite as well as we hoped,

But we did improve on last year’s performance, and that was our ultimate goal.”

Shooters came to Quantico from all over the military to compete in the matches. All services sent their best people and the competition was fierce.

“The competition was spread out this year,” Rucks said. “All of the teams were so competitive that none really dominated the competition.”

Though the interservice competition matched the services against each other, competitions such as this one ultimately make for a stronger military and help achieve the ultimate goal of preparing troops for combat.

“Competitive marksmanship may not be combat,” Ledford said, “but it is still putting a bullet in the center of a target, whether that target is a black circle in competition, or the enemy when we go to battle.”



LANCE CPL. KIMBERLY S. DOWELL

On the mark

The Marine Forces Japan rifle team competed in the 39th Annual Interservice Rifle Championship Matches in Quantico, Va., July 17-25. The team finished the competition with High Post and Station honors. Pictured from left to right (back) MSgt. Leslie Mock, Staff Sgts. Jerry Zingg, David Adkins, Cpl. George Rose, CWO2 Martin Cole, (front) Gunnery Sgts. Charles Dudley, Juan Lopez.

Team members not pictured are Sgt. Larry Arnold, Gunnery Sgts. Scott Roberts, Alexander Arrieta.

Courts-martial REPORT III MEF/MCBJ

- A private assigned to Marine Aircraft Group-36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, was sentenced to five months confinement, forfeiture of \$500 per month for five months and a bad conduct discharge following a conviction at a special courts-martial of one specification of Article 86, unauthorized absence; one specification of article 121, larceny; one specification of article 123, forgery; and one specification of article 134, uttering bad checks by failing to maintain sufficient funds.

- A seaman assigned to 3rd Medical Battalion, 3rd Force Service Support Group, was sentenced to three months confinement, reduction to E-1, forfeiture of \$600 per month for three months and a bad conduct discharge following a conviction at a special courts-martial of one specification Article 107, false official statement; one specification of Article 121, larceny; and one specification of Article 134, stealing mail.

To submit a brief ...

The Okinawa Marine accepts briefs for non-profit organizations and groups only. Briefs are run on space-available and time-priority basis. Deadline for briefs is noon Friday. The Okinawa Marine reserves the right to edit to fit space. Submit briefs by faxing to 645-3803, or send an e-mail to garciant@mcbbutler.usmc.mil.

Community Briefs

Turning in transformers

All transformers being turned in by off-base residents must be turned in to Furnishings Management Office, Bldg. 217, the Accompanied Furnishings Warehouse No. 3 Bldg. 54425 or Kinser Warehouse, Bldg. 300.

Eighteen Civil Engineer Squadron, Eagle Hardware will no longer accept turn-ins and will refer all customers to the areas mentioned above.

Authorized issue quantity is one per household.

Questions can be directed to FMO personnel at 632-6085/634-1625/634-1629.

DRMO Local Sealed Bids

The DRMO at Camp Kinser will have a Local Sealed Bid Sale at Bldg. 600. Inspection dates for the sale will take place 21-23 Aug., with a bid opening date of 24 Aug.

Local Sealed Bids are open to SOFA and non-SOFA personnel. Items will include household furniture, vehicles, electrical items, scrap metals, textiles and much more.

For further information call 637-4323/3707 during duty hours.

Marine Corps Base soccer team

A Marine Corps Base soccer team is presently organizing for future tournaments including the regional tournament scheduled for September.

For more information and a practice schedule, contact Lance Cpl. Pantelakis at pantelakisma@mcbbutler.usmc.mil or 645-4145, or contact Cpl. Barnes at 645-9306.

MOM's Crisis Care Center

Maternal Outreach Ministries Crisis Care Center provides free and confidential services including pregnancy tests, counseling, baby formula and more.

MOM's Crisis Care Center is a nonprofit organization with a 24-hour Heartline at 633-6464.

College of Continuing Education

The Marine Corps University College of Continuing

Alcohol-related NJPs III MEF/MCBJ

The following are alcohol-related nonjudicial punishments for August 6-12.

• Underage drinking

A seaman with United States Naval Hospital Okinawa was found guilty at a battalion-level NJP of violating a lawful order by drinking underage during a alcohol restricted period. Punishment: reduction to E-2, forfeiture of \$563 for two months, restriction and extra duties for 45 days.

• Underage drinking

A lance corporal with 3rd Materiel Readiness Battalion, 3rd Force Service Support Group, was found guilty at a battalion-level NJP of violating a lawful order by drinking underage during a alcohol restricted period. Punishment: reduction to E-2, forfeiture of \$500 for two months, restriction and extra duties for 45 days.

• Underage drinking

A lance corporal with Headquarters and Service Battalion, 3rd Force Service Support Group, was found guilty at a battalion-level NJP of drinking underage. Punishment: reduction to E-2, forfeiture of \$563 for two months, restriction and extra duties for 45 days.

• Underage drinking

A private first class with 3rd Materiel Readiness Battalion, 3rd Force Service Support Group, was found guilty at a company-level NJP of drinking underage. Punishment: forfeiture of \$263 for two months, restriction and extra duties for 14 days.

• Underage drinking

A private first class with 3rd Materiel Readiness Battalion, 3rd Force Service Support Group, was found guilty at a battalion-level NJP of drinking underage. Punishment: forfeiture of \$263 for two months, restriction and extra duties for 14 days.

• Underage drinking

A private first class with 3rd Materiel Readiness Battalion, 3rd Force Service Support Group, was found guilty at a battalion-level NJP of drinking underage. Punishment: forfeiture of \$263 for two months, restriction and extra duties for 14 days.

• Underage drinking

A private first class with Headquarters and Service Battalion, 3rd Force Service Support Group, was found guilty at a battalion-level NJP of drinking underage. Punishment: reduction to E-1, forfeiture of \$502 for two months, restriction and extra duties for 45 days.

• Violation of lawful order

A corporal with 3rd Materiel Readiness Battalion, 3rd Force Service Support Group, was found guilty at a company-level NJP of failure to obey a lawful order by consuming alcohol during a restricted period. Punishment: forfeiture of \$337 per month for one month, restriction and extra duties for 14 days.

Education announces the convening of AY 00-01. AWS-phase I, AWS phase II and Command and Staff Course will be taught by seminar commencing Oct. 2.

For more information or to enroll, contact Mr. Hopkins at 645-2230, or email Hopkinsjp@mcbbutler.usmc.mil.

We are all called to serve, live by our own beliefs

It's as vivid in my mind as though it were yesterday. I was 15 years old and was attending an All-State Youth Choir Conference in Marianna, Fla. That week was filled with many wonderful and exciting opportunities to meet and interact with fellow students. During one of the evening worship services I felt the call to full-time ministry. Though I wasn't sure at that particular time what God had in store for my life, I knew that I was called to serve.

Upon returning home I immediately shared my decision with my pastor and he encouraged me to share it with the congregation in what would become my first sermon. It lasted all of about seven minutes. Many sermons have come and gone since that time but the desire to serve has never faltered.

It wasn't until the spring of 1993 that I realized in what capacity God wanted me to serve. After phoning a few recruiters and discussing my options, I decided upon the Navy Chaplain Corps. I was commissioned as a Chaplain Candidate Program Officer (CCPO) in May 1993. However, it wasn't until the fall of 1997 that I was commissioned as a chaplain in the United States Navy. Upon completion of the Chaplain's School Basic Course I was assigned to 3rd Support Battalion, 3rd Force Service Support Group, Okinawa, Japan. Now we're known as the "Red Patchers" of 3rd Transportation Support Battalion.

For the past two years I have had the unique privilege and honor to minister to the Marines, Sailors and their families in a variety of settings and circumstances. Our

motto in the Chaplain Corps is "Cooperation without Compromise." Basically that means we minister to a multitude of other faith groups while remaining true to our own. In my own personal opinion service isn't based upon race, sex or religious preference it is based upon the needs of the individual. Hopefully this doesn't apply just to chaplains. I believe that we are all called to serve in some capacity. However, the fact remains that we live in a very greedy and selfish society. I think that we have all but forgotten that it is "better to give than it is to receive." In this new millennium it might benefit us to revisit some of the sayings of old. The golden rule flashes vividly in my mind. "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." How many times have we turned the other cheek? To be quite honest there have been times when I haven't felt like giving. It's nice to be on the receiving end sometimes. But then reality sets in and I remember what a good feeling it is to serve others. It is refreshing as well as comforting to know that you have helped someone by offering a shoulder to cry upon, a word of encouragement or just an ear to listen. Remember God gave us two ears and only one mouth. For me it is an honor to serve as a chaplain. I have the distinct privilege of serving my God and my country through the lives of our nation's sons and daughters in uniform. Now that's something worth waking up for.

In the midst of all that I think about those Corps Values of Honor, Courage and Commitment. With regards to honor, I am proud of who I am and all that I have been blessed to achieve. When I was a freshman in college

my mother said, "Honor the family name." It didn't hit me until weeks later that what she was saying was so simple and yet so profound. Let others see you for who you really are. Be a person of integrity. With regards to courage, I believe that we must all take a stand for what we believe. Even in the face of adversity. Take a stand for those things that you hold near and dear to your heart, but also take a stand for those things that you know are wrong whatever they might be. In the long run you'll be victorious. Finally, commitment means that we must be willing to do whatever it is that we have been called to do 24 hours-a-day seven days-a-week. I'm not just a chaplain from 0730-1630 Monday through Friday, but all the time.

As we work together to accomplish the goals set before us, might I offer this word of encouragement. First, in the book of Proverbs it says, "Without vision the people will perish." Set for yourself some realistic goals. Second, remember to have patience. This is my greatest weakness. Remember, "patience is a virtue." Lastly, have fun at what you do. If you're not excited about what you're doing then find new and exciting ways to bring vibrancy and vitality in your service to others.

As you might here me say on AFN Radio during my morning devotion, I'm Chaplain Michael Brown from 3rd Transportation Support Battalion saying God bless and have a wonderful day.

Chaplain Michael D. Brown
3rd Transportation Support Battalion chaplain

Voting is a right; make your voices heard from afar

Voting has always been argued to be one of the most important rights of a United States citizen. If that's the case, why are so many people not voting? Can any of it be helped? And do people who don't vote have a right to complain?

There are many reasons for the low voter turnouts recorded in elections today. Everything from "I'm too busy" to "it doesn't matter" are common reasons given by the average citizen as to why he or she cannot vote. Now while those have grown to be acceptable reasons over time, the truth is, in a system set up for people to voice their opinions, there are many ways to get around these excuses.

For example, in 1996 when the U.S. Census Bureau recorded an all time low in voter turnout (54.2 percent of registered voters), the most common reason for not voting was that people were too busy or didn't have time off work to go vote. The only problem with such an argument is that most counties have voting booths open from about 5 a.m. to 8 p.m. in an attempt to give working citizens a chance to voice their opinions.

Not only are there extended hours, but those working at Boards of Elections across the country have tried to open other avenues for people to vote who still may not be able to make it during those times. This is called absentee voting.

Absentee voting is a process that tries to account for the different situations a person may encounter that would prevent them from voting in the traditional fashion.

Absentee voting can be used by people of old age who are not physically able to make it out on election day, as well as people who may be out of town or who have moved and not updated their voter registration information. Most importantly, the process is fairly easy.

There are two main ways a person can vote using an absentee ballot. The first is to simply go into a Board of Elections office and request an absentee ballot. All this does is let a person, who may be too busy on election day, cast their vote and have it counted with the others. The other way, used mainly by the elderly and those incapacitated by an illness, is to simply

call your local board of elections and request an absentee ballot. Once that request is received the Board of Elections compiles a list of people who need absentee ballots and sends them out with a deadline for them to be returned. Either way, the process tries to create a method where eligible voters can practice their right.

Another common reason for not voting is that people believe their one vote doesn't matter. The truth is that all those 'one votes' that don't matter eventually add up to a collection of votes that do matter.

What people are forgetting to realize is that the system is set up to hear the voice of the masses. The way that's done is by looking at the results of elections. On the surface, sometimes it can seem complicated, but it's actually a very simple equation.

Think about it like this. Most of the people who are legally eligible to vote don't, which means that the majority of people aren't being represented. What that also means is that those people who do vote are the ones making our decisions for us.

If those same people who don't vote

decided to go out and vote for just one election, think about how different the end result could actually be. Those votes don't matter only because no one's casting them.

James Garfields, President in 1877, explained it best when he wrote, "Now more than ever the people are responsible for the character of their Congress. If that body is ignorant, restless, and corrupt, it is because the people tolerate ignorance, recklessness, and corruption."

The funny thing is, 133 years later that's still the case.

As for people who don't vote having a right to complain, I believe that the first amendment (freedom of speech) says that you do. Any person with a venue or opportunity to voice a complaint has the right to do so. The question is which voice are politicians listening to? The voices that say there is something wrong and accepting it or the voices that come out in the masses and voice their opinions by voting?

Pfc. Damian McGee
MCB Public Affairs Office

STREET TALK



"The nice people and the beautiful beaches."

Pfc. Jimmy H. Bention, TAVSC, MCB



Tasha Toles, family member

"The Peace Park, because the Buddha statue is enormous and I like the crystal pieces in the top."



Cpl. Robert Evans, 4th Marines, 3rd MarDiv

"The different cultures, and the people here are very different."



Jerrin Jackson, family member

"The beach resort at Okuma because of the sunset and the activities they have there."

Work continues long after night fall for HMM-265



PFC. KATHY J. ARNDT

Part of the night crew, Sgt. Robert D. Bales, night crew supervisor, Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-265, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, works on the hydraulic system of a CH-46E Sea Knight.

Pfc. Kathy J Arndt

Combat Correspondent

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION FUTENMA — The alarm sounds and it's time for work. But the sun is not rising, it is going down.

The Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-265's night crew of about 15 Marines work throughout the night on their CH-46E Sea Knight helicopters.

The average hours the night crew works is from 4:30 p.m. to about 2 a.m., according to Sgt. Robert D. Bales,

night crew supervisor, HMM-265, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing.

"They are our unsung heroes," said Maj. Peter D. Buck, aircraft maintenance officer, HMM-265. The night crew handles more of the repairs and maintenance than the day crew, along with washing the helicopters.

"Because of the flights during the day, the night crew has more time to do the heavier maintenance," Bales said.

When it comes to working at night, the Marines said they have a little more space to work.

"We get more maintenance and repairs done because there is less people to run into and less flights to wait on," said Lance Cpl. Steven M. McClung, CH-46E mechanic, HMM-265.

Throughout the night, the crew works to the soft sounds of crickets and music.

"It's peaceful at night," Bales said. "Sometimes we can even hear the Okinawan musicians practicing in town."

Not everything is as nice as working to music and crickets. For the Marines, working at night does have its disadvantages.

"It's hard to sleep in the middle of the afternoon, especially when there are aircraft flying by all day," Bales said.

Even though it may seem the crew's day is a little backwards, some find a way to make it work to their advantage.

"One good thing about working at night is, when I get off work, I can go to the bank and some other places that are not open when day crew gets off," said Lance Cpl. Chieh V. Lo, aircraft structure and hydraulics repair, HMM-265.

After going to the bank and all errands are done, its back to bed with the sun still high in the sky to wake up and do it again tomorrow night.



PFC. KATHY J. ARNDT

Night crew Marines work through the late hours of the night to fix worn shock absorbers and replace other parts of a CH-46E Sea Knight helicopter.

Amtrackers spend two days sharpening their skills

Lance Cpl. Kimberly S. Dowell

Combat Correspondent

CAMP SCHWAB — Maintaining the combat readiness of an assault amphibian vehicle takes up every hour of the workday for the Marines assigned to Amphibious Assault Vehicle Company, Combat Assault Battalion here.

Besides their responsibilities as mechanics and maintenance personnel, the Marines also serve as the operating crewmembers when the AAVs head into combat.

"So the best way to keep these Marines motivated is to get them off the ramp and training," said 1st Lt. Eric P. Dominijanni, platoon commander, AAV Company, CAB.

The training also maintains the crewmembers' combat readiness.

Motivation along with weapons skills training moved the Amtrack crews off the ramp Aug. 10 and 11. The Marines went to the firing ranges and tracked vehicle assault course here to fine tune their skills on the weapons systems of their personnel model AAVs.

The AAV personnel model features an MK-19 40 mm machine gun and an M-2

.50 caliber machine gun.

On the first day of training, the Marines lined up the vehicles and static fired the M2 .50 caliber machine gun. Static firing focuses on aiming in and the mechanics of the weapon system without the additional challenges of shooting from a moving AAV. The crews tackled maneuvering challenges on the assault course the second day of the training exercise.

"All day long they clean and maintain these vehicles," Dominijanni said. "They get bored. Training events give them the chance to actually use the vehicles they maintain."

The AAV Marines must be more than vehicle mechanics. Every Marine is expected to keep his maintenance, weapons handling and vehicle maneuvering skills in top shape, according to Gunnery Sgt. Frederico Barriga, operations chief, AAV Company, CAB.

"These training events are extremely beneficial," Barriga said. "We don't have nearly enough opportunities to train with rounds. The purpose of training is to maintain the crew's edge with the weapon system and to freshen their knowledge of the vehicle's move and shoot capabilities."

Moving and shooting happens on the assault course. The crews get to familiarize themselves with terrain challenges

through training scenarios, according to Barriga.

"The assault course teaches the Marines the difficulties of moving quickly and avoiding overexposing themselves to enemy fire while moving through tough terrain," Dominijanni said. "The AAV's can do a lot, but they can't fly."

Besides improving their AAV related skills, the Marines fired the M-240G machine gun and filled down time with Professional Military Education lectures.

"These Marines fire M-16s and Gulfs, go on humps, and know their vehicles inside and out," Dominijanni said.

The importance of basic weapons systems handling and safety precautions were discussed by Gunnery Sgt. Robert Twardy, platoon sergeant, AAV Company, CAB during a PME lecture. He emphasized to the AAV crews proper lubrica-

tion of the weapons and the significance of being on target.

"We work to make training realistic," Twardy said, "because combat is not the time to find out you haven't had enough training."



LANCE CPL. KIMBERLY S. DOWELL

Crew chiefs look on as a gunner fixes a malfunction in the M-2 .50 caliber machine gun during static fire.



LANCE CPL. KIMBERLY S. DOWELL

Assault Amphibian Vehicles line up for static firing of their turret-mounted Up Gun Weapon System.



LANCE CPL. KIMBERLY S. DOWELL

A Marine loads .50 caliber rounds into the weapon system on an Assault Amphibian Vehicle.

Third Medical Battalion celebrates 58th birthday



PFC. KATHY J. ARNDT

Marines from the 3rd Medical Battalion, 3rd Force Service Support Group, stand in line to get a piece of the birthday cake after the ceremony.

Pfc. Kathy J Arndt

Combat Correspondent

CAMP HANSEN — Third Medical Battalion, 3rd Force Service Support Group, celebrated its 58th birthday here Aug. 11.

Sailors and Marines attended the cake cutting ceremony at the East Chapel here. Navy Capt. Roger D. Edwards, commanding officer, 3rd Medical Bn. cut and served the first pieces of the cake.

"This birthday gives me a chance to let the Sailors and Marines of this battalion know that they are a part of our history," Edwards said.

The first piece was served to the guest speaker, 1st Sgt. Michael J. Watkins, former 3rd Medical Bn. sergeant major. The next two pieces were served to the oldest and youngest members in the battalion.

During the ceremony, Edwards spoke to the Marines and Sailors.

"You must remember who you are and what you stand for," Edwards said. "Look at the raising of the flag at Iwo Jima. Look for the one man without a canteen and remember that he was a Sailor from 3rd Medical Bn."

The battalion's history does not stop at Iwo Jima. In April 1945, 3rd Medical Bn., 3rd Marine Division was deployed to Guam. The unit was deactivated

December 1945. Reactivated in March 1952, the battalion deployed to provide support in the Korean War.

From July 1965 to February 1966, 3rd Medical Bn. provided medical support for four operations and received its second Navy Unit Commendation. On August 15, 1976 3rd Medical Bn., 3rd MarDiv was redesignated as 3rd Medical Bn., 3rd FSSG, and has continued to provide medical support to III MEF.



PFC. KATHY J. ARNDT

On August 15, 1976 3rd Medical Battalion, 3rd Marine Division was redesignated as 3rd Medical Bn., 3rd FSSG, and has continued to provide medical support to III MEF.

Marines conduct Humanitarian Assistance/Disaster Relief exercise



SGT. JOHN G. VANNUCCI

U.S. Marines of 2nd Platoon, Kilo Company, Landing Force Cooperation Afloat Readiness And Training, III Marine Expeditionary Force, work together with Indonesian Marines to clear an irrigation ditch of dead plants and debris in Asem Bagus, Indonesia as part of CARAT 2000.

Staff Sgt. Jason J. Bortz

LF CARAT Correspondent

ASEM BAGUS, Indonesia — *In a mock scenario, an earthquake induced tsunami does extreme damage to public and private property here. The Indonesian government requests assistance from the United States of America to help manage the crisis.*

The Marines of Landing Force Cooperation Afloat Readiness And Training, III Marine Expeditionary Force, concluded a week of training here by conducting a Humanitarian Assistance/Disaster Relief exercise.

On the morning of July 28, U.S. and Indonesian Marines conducted a simulated landing here. The Marines went to several local villages where they cleared irrigation ditches and handed out Sembako bags. Sembako bags contain rice, sugar, noodles, cooking oil and salt.

As part of the exercise, an Evacuation Control Center was established.

"An ECC is used to evacuate civilian personnel in a controlled and orderly fashion to ensure their safety and the safety of the Marines," said Staff Sgt. Aaron Sayli, explosive ordnance disposal technician, LF CARAT, who was the staff noncommissioned officer-in-charge of the

Evacuation Control Center.

The HA/DR was broken down into five stations.

The first station was set up at the local village of Gedangan. One hundred of the villagers volunteered to act as "evacuees." The Marines organized the villagers and separated those with mock injuries. The villagers were then taken to the second station on 5-ton trucks.

Evacuees were processed and staged in general purpose tents at the second station. People requiring medical attention were sent to the medical aid station at station three. Those not requiring medical attention were sent to station four.

At station four, the evacuees were given a hot meal. Afterwards, the evacuees were taken to station five on the beach.

On the beach, the evacuees took a short ride on a Landing Craft Air Cushioned vehicle to simulate their evacuation from the area. After the ride, the evacuees were taken back to their village.

"I learned a lot about the whole evacuation process," said 2nd Lt. Erin Nalepa, Combat Service Support Detachment officer-in-charge, LF CARAT, on her first HA/DR exercise. "I learned about the considerations for families, different religions and women."

For others, the training provided an opportunity to work with civilians during an evacuation.

"It was outstanding training," said Sayli, "usually we only have other Marines to work with, but with real civilians, you learn to move them from point "A" to

point "B" in an orderly fashion."

The training was made more realistic because the villagers spoke very little English.

"The language barrier was helpful [to the training] because we only had one translator," Sayli said. "But the Marines learned to move the crowd using hand and arm signals."

The Marines were in Indonesia from July 23 - 29 as part of CARAT 2000. Cooperation Afloat Readiness And Training is a four-month deployment to six Southeast Asian countries that focuses on cooperative engagement through bilateral exercises, training and camaraderie. The Indonesia phase focused on humanitarian operations and projects.



SGT. JOHN G. VANNUCCI

Cpl. David B. Tomlinson, squad leader, 2nd Platoon, Kilo Company, Landing Force Cooperation Afloat Readiness And Training, III Marine Expeditionary Force, helps Indonesians clear an irrigation ditch of dead plants and debris during a combined humanitarian assistance exercise held by U.S. and Indonesian Marines in Asem Bagus, Indonesia, as part of CARAT 2000.

Marines nab realistic cop training at high-tech village



ARMY STAFF SGT. KATHLEEN T. RHEM

Instructor Rick Werts critiques Special Reaction Team Training Course students' videotaped performance in a recent exercise at the U.S. Army Military Police School in Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. Special Reaction Teams are the military's equivalent to Special Weapons and Tactics teams.

Army Staff Sgt. Kathleen T. Rhem

American Forces Press Services

FORT LEONARD WOOD, Mo. — "Role players ready," Rick Werts, instructor, Army Military Police School, said into a microphone while keeping his eyes on a bank of monitors in a cramped, dark room.

Seconds later, the building exploded with noise. Werts watched the monitors as a squad of military police students wearing helmets and face shields stormed into an innocent-looking suburban home. "Get on the ground! Down, down!" they screamed, quickly apprehending one suspect. They found another hiding behind a trap door upstairs.

Within three minutes they announced the building was clear. Twenty minutes after that, the students were back in the classroom listening to a critique of their videotaped performance.

"You were stepping on each other all over those mikes," David Reed, instructor, Army Military Police School, told the group. "We talk about the confusion of battle and the fog of war, let's not add to it with our own radios."

Werts then referred them to the video screen and pointed out a serious error. The lead person had thrown in a mock stun grenade and immediately followed it through the doorway. A real M-84 diversionary device flashes a 2.5-million-candlepower light and a 175-decibel bang.

"You just blinded yourself," Werts told the errant student while watching the scene in front of him. "Somebody else would have had to go in for you."

The school provides basic military police training to soldiers and Marines, and advanced police training to members of all services, foreign militaries, and civilian law enforcement agencies throughout the country. Roughly 230 instructors will train a projected 12,900 students this year.

The jewel of the school is David Stem Village, a facility designed to provide realistic training in a dozen different situations police officers routinely face. Buildings in the village include two single-family homes, a duplex, credit union, post office, shoppette, movie the-

ater, prison and a clinic. Rooms in other buildings are set up to look like a crack house, a nightclub and a home occupied by militia members.

The buildings appear very realistic. The post office has a bank of mail boxes, customer windows and "wanted" posters. The shoppette's shelves are stocked, and residences are completely furnished from cars in the driveways to clothes in the closets and stuffed animals in children's bedrooms.

The buildings may look ordinary, but they're not. They all have closed-circuit cameras for instructors to monitor and record all training. The interior walls are made of 3/4-inch-thick plywood instead of drywall to stand up to abuse. From a control room in each building, instructors can introduce sound, change lighting, and, in some cases, reconfigure walls.

"We want to simulate what they might experience in the real world," said Lee Chewey, chief of the school's Special Reaction Team Training Committee.

Instructors can even videotape the students' approach to a building. Police officers need to keep three principles in mind when raiding a building: surprise, speed and aggressive action according to Chewey.

He said videotaping training is invaluable in showing students their mistakes. "Sometimes they don't even believe they reacted a certain way," Chewey said. "But then we show them the videotape."

While training in Stem Village, students use "simunitions," basically paint pellets that sting and leave a hot-pink mark, but are generally harmless, he said.

Training in the Advanced

Law Enforcement Training Division falls into three programs. The Counterdrug Training Program includes eight courses for agencies with drug-enforcement responsibilities. Most of the school's civilian law-enforcement students attend under this program, according to Chewey.

Federal counterdrug funds pay for the training, which is free to the civilian students, he said.

Courses for civilian officers focus heavily on land navigation, use of global positioning systems and patrol techniques.

Chewey said military police generally are exposed to these skills in their military training, but many civilian officers have no training in these areas.

Civilian agencies are also allowed to use the facilities here for their own training needs during holiday periods, when the military doesn't schedule classes, he said. Civilian agencies often wait more than a year for a chance to train here.

The Anti-terrorism/Force Protection Training Program includes nine courses for DoD personnel who have anti-terrorism responsibilities. The program includes a special reaction team course and training in protective services, evasive driving and hostage negotiations.

Special reaction teams are the military's equivalent to Special Weapons And Tactics teams. They are used for special situations that require higher skill levels than the usual patrolman has, said Army Col. Joel Himsl, the school's former director of combat developments and now the garrison commander here.

The Protective Service Training Course uses U.S. Secret Service doctrine to teach students to protect high-ranking officials. Students learn the basics of witness and VIP protection, evasive driving, and how to provide moving protection.

Protective service officers cringe when they hear the term "bodyguard." They like to think of themselves as much more, said Army Sgt. 1st Class Tom Carr, non-commissioned officer in charge of the school's Protective Service Committee.

"Bodyguards are there to react if something happens. We're more proactive," he said. "We want to prevent anything from happening. People joke and call us bullet stoppers, but we work to keep the bullets from being fired at all."

The school also has a Rehabilitation Training Instructor Course. It provides drill instructor training to federal, state and local civilian correctional agencies that have military-style boot camp programs for rehabilitating nonviolent youth offenders.

The state-of-the-art facilities and realistic training here are vital to protect the lives of military police officers, according to Himsl.

"It doesn't matter if we're in Haiti taking care of refugees or in Bosnia keeping the peace," he said. "You don't get a second chance to do things right."

For more information on the U.S. Army Military Police School, visit its Website at <http://www.wood.army.mil/usamps/default.htm>.



ARMY STAFF SGT. KATHLEEN T. RHEM

Instructor Rick Werts watches on closed-circuit TV as students in the Special Reaction Team Training Course practice raiding a house.



LANCE CPL. KIMBERLY S. DOWELL



LANCE CPL. KIMBERLY S. DOWELL

(above) Marines show their Japanese visitors how they attach an auxiliary fuel tank to the side of an AH-1W Super Cobra helicopter.
(left) Two trainees with the Japanese Air Self Defense Force take a look at the control panel of a UH-1N Huey helicopter.

Japanese Air Self Defense Force visits HMM-262



LANCE CPL. KIMBERLY S. DOWELL

Marines and their Japanese counterparts gather around an AH-1W Super Cobra helicopter on the flight line at Futenma.

Lance Cpl. Kimberly S. Dowell

Combat Correspondent

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION FUTENMA — Fifty-five members of the Japanese Air Self Defense Force visited Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-262, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, July 31.

The Japanese service members were invited to tour a helicopter static display and Tactical Air Operations Center systems by Lt. Col. Joseph Cole, commanding officer, Marine Air Control Squadron-4.

The group was comprised mostly of trainees from Japan's 325th Hawk Battery, Naha City. The purpose of the visit was to give the trainees a better idea of

the capabilities of a Marine helicopter squadron and TAOC systems.

The static display featured a CH-53E, Cobra AH-1W and UH-1N Huey. Marine pilots served as tour guides, explaining the characteristics and capabilities of each helicopter.

"Through visits like these, the Japanese get to see what we're doing," said Capt. James Weis, cobra pilot, HMM-262. "It helps improve our relationship with the Japanese."

Following the tour of the flightline static display, the group visited the TAOC where they saw Marine Corps radar technology and the Stinger missile systems.

Sgt. Yoshihiro Tajima, maintenance technician, 325th Hawk Battery, JASDF said the Marine Corps helicopters and technology was similar to the resources the 325th works with.

"The difference is the Marines have newer aircraft," said Tajima. "Our helicopters are older and cost more to maintain."

The visit was one of many events Cole has arranged in his efforts to educate Japanese military members and establish a friendship between the Japanese and Marine Corps air wings.

"We have previously coordinated with Lt. Col. Cole on events intended to establish friendship and exchange ideas," said Tajima. "The cooperation and kindness is very appreciated."



LANCE CPL. KIMBERLY S. DOWELL

A trainee from the Japanese Air Self Defense Force explores the cockpit of a Marine AH-1W Super Cobra Helicopter.

Community relations specialists build bridge between military, civilians

Lance Cpl. Kimberly S. Dowell

Combat Correspondent

CAMP SCHWAB — "Community relations events pool the Marines and the Okinawans under one collective purpose," said Fumio Iha, community relations specialist and liaison, Camp Schwab. "It generates a kind of relationship, a working partnership."

Community relations activities give Marines the opportunity to see Okinawan culture and open doors to communication.

"Helping out in the community provides proof that the Marines are kind and willing to help. It is a good chance for the Marines to build neighborly relations and hopefully make friends in the Okinawan community," said Chiyoko Kochi, community relations specialist and liaison, Camp Hansen.

Community relations events range from dragon boat races and friendship festivals to beach clean ups and English conversation exchange programs.

The English conversation exchange events help bridge the language barrier between Marines and their Okinawan

hosts.

"Many Okinawan parents I have met are very anxious for their children to learn English from [American military members]," said Ichiro Umehara, community relations specialist and liaison, Camp Courtney. "We have had English classes not only for the Assistant Language Program at Akamichi Elementary School, but also for kids, women's associations and groups here for the G-8 Summit."

Some of the volunteer activities help non-profit organizations such as orphanages and nursing homes with maintenance and repair tasks.

Even when the activities involve working, the Marines are not considered free laborers, according to Iha.

We coordinate with the local organizations to make all of the events a sharing and learning experience for both the Okinawans and the Marines, he said.

While both sides reap the benefits of good community relations programs, getting to the benefits takes time, organization and devotion, according to Iha.

Iha, Kochi and Umehara have a combined 24 years worth of experience in Marine Corps community relations. Each have stories of the struggle to get volunteers, media cover-

age or equipment.

Kochi said she once spent several hours on the phone just trying to arrange the use of lawnmowers. Iha spends hours before and after the work day corresponding with military and Okinawan points of contact. But the community relations specialists know the programs would be impossible without support from the Marines, Sailors and their commands.

"I can do nothing without their understanding and support," Umehara said.

For Kochi and Iha, the chaplains are instrumental in getting a community relations project started.

"Whenever I need to coordinate an event, I usually contact the battalion chaplain and he starts the volunteering process within the battalion," Kochi said.

People interested in volunteering should contact their chaplain or their base community relations office.

"[Community relations] is a key for the Marines to open their doors to the local community," Iha said. "I encourage every individual to give it a try. Otherwise, they'll miss out on the culture and tradition of Okinawa and end up just counting the days until they leave."



PFC. KEITH R. MEIKLE

Delvin Smythe, 12, pitcher and first baseman, practices his curve ball during the baseball skills clinic.

Youth baseball starts season with jamboree

Pfc. Keith R. Meikle

Combat Correspondent

CAMP FOSTER — The Marine Corps Community Services held the 2000 Youth Baseball Jamboree Saturday here at field one.

The jamboree officially welcomed the players into the season. Col. Paul J. Pisano, commanding officer, Headquarters and Service Battalion, Marine Corps Base, gave the welcoming speech.

"Youth baseball teaches leadership skills, the teamwork concept, sportsmanship, as well as baseball skills," Pisano said. "It really brings together the Marine Corps community."

After the speech, the Pacific Force softball team held a baseball skills clinic. The clinic taught players the fundamentals of fielding ground balls, pitching, catching fly balls and hitting.

"We love coming out here and teaching the kids about the game," said Spencer R. Carter, outfielder for the Pacific Force softball team.

There are teams from Camps Courtney, Foster and Kinser for each division. The divisions are tee ball, minor

league softball, major league softball, coach pitch, minor league baseball and major league baseball.

"The jamboree starts the season off right," said Jason Kozerski, youth sports coordinator, here. "Everyone gets a good, positive feeling, and it gets the kids spirits up for the season."

For more information call Kozerski at 645-3533/3534.



PFC. KEITH R. MEIKLE

Delvin Smythe, a 12-year old pitcher and first baseman, listens to pitching advice from Spencer R. Carter, an outfielder for the Pacific Force softball team, during the clinic Saturday.

Marine lance corporal dreams of playing professional soccer



PFC. JOSH P. VIERELA

(above and right) Miguel A. Pantelakis practices his soccer skills during a pre-practice warm-up.

Pfc. Josh P. Vierela

Combat Correspondent

CAMP FOSTER — Children run around the middle of a plaza kicking a soccer ball in the early morning. Later in the day, the children dive into a slow moving river to cool themselves from the mid-day sun.

For Miguel A. Pantelakis this scene depicts a typical Friday for him in his country.

Born in San Juan De Abajo, Nayarit, Mexico, Pantelakis grew up in the small town of approximately 12,000 people, where he discovered his interest in soccer.

Learning at age 10 by playing with the other children in town, he quickly fell in love with the sport. Pantelakis developed his skill mostly at the right fullback position while playing for his hometown team, and his junior high soccer team.

"I like playing soccer because it is very competitive and it is popular worldwide," Pantelakis said.

During the five years on the two teams, he placed first in the league and third in regional competitions. Also, the junior high team he played for, for three years, received first-place honors in regional competitions.

He continued playing soccer for the high school team after moving from Mexico to Salt Lake City at age 15.

Learning to speak English in a year by listening to people, Pantelakis became involved in the Upward Bound program.

The program helps minorities enroll in college, according to Pantelakis. While attending the program, he learned about the educational opportunities the Marine Corps had to offer.

He was drawn to the Marines because, like soccer, it is a teamwork-oriented organization and it is challenging, according to Pantelakis.

Enlisting at age 17, Pantelakis attended boot camp at Marine Corp Recruiting Depot, San Diego, but never lost his passion for soccer.

Upon graduation, Pantelakis attended the Transportation Management Specialist school in Fort Eustis, Va.

After the six-week school, Pantelakis, who is a lance corporal, came to Okinawa and worked for the Transportation Management Office, Marine Corps Base. After a year on Okinawa he became the MCB Chief of Staff driver.

During his first year, he finally was able to reunite with the sport he loved, and joined the MCB soccer team.

One of the only members from the 1999 team, Pantelakis has helped organized a soccer team for MCB.

"I wanted to have a team to represent Marine Corps Base," Pantelakis said.

Pantelakis hopes that the team will be built from the foundation he is laying and will continue competing after his tour on Okinawa ends.

However, with the end of his Okinawa tour, Pantelakis does not intend to end his Marine Corps or soccer career. He plans on participating in the Boost Program, a program that offers 10 months of preparatory courses for college and Officer Candidate School candidates. However, more than anything, Pantelakis aspires to fulfill his dream of playing professional soccer.



PFC. JOSH P. VIERELA

Miguel A. Pantelakis kicks a soccer ball around in a pre-practice warm-up.

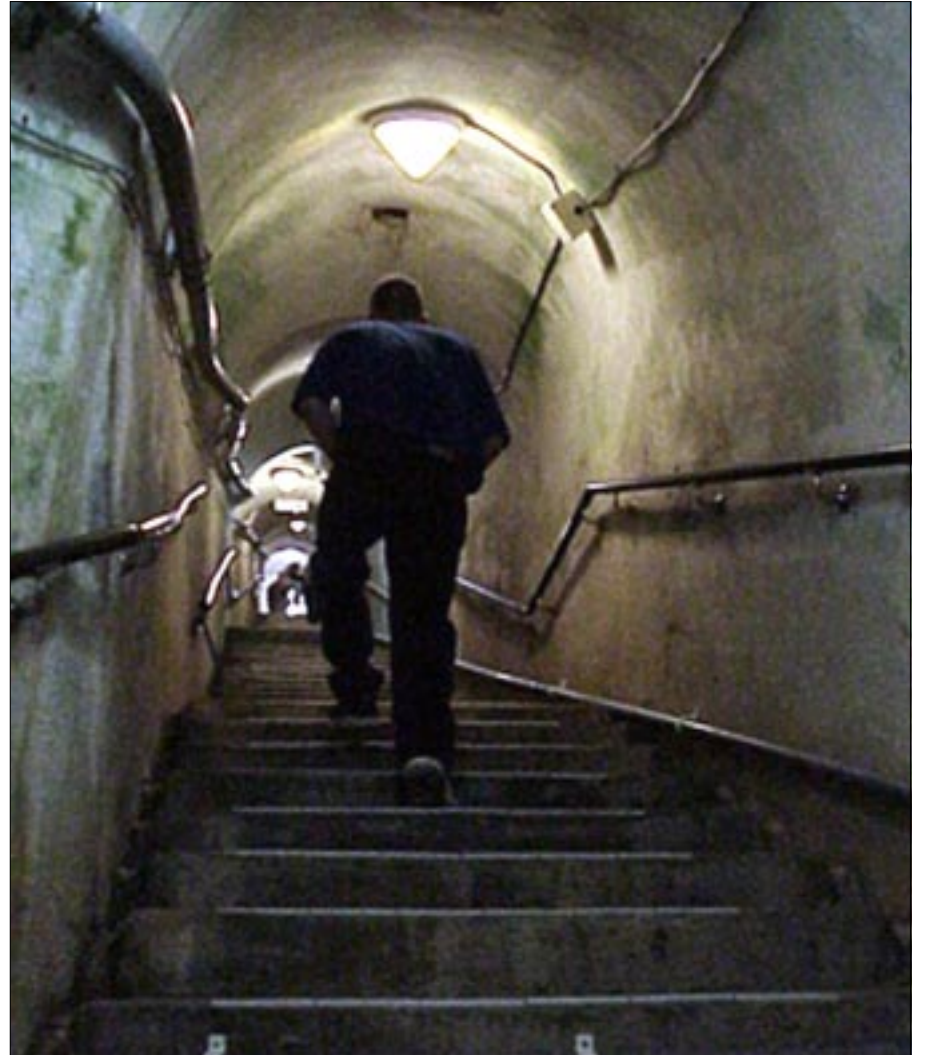


PFC. KATHY J. ARNDT



PFC. KATHY J. ARNDT

(above) Scuba instructor, Jerry Fitzgerald, helps Marines with their diving equipment during the scuba diving discovery class.
(left) At Hacksaw Ridge, Lance Cpl. Kim K. Dewerff, information systems coordinator, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, climbs into a Japanese combat tunnel used during World War II.



PFC. KATHY J. ARNDT

At the Japanese Navy Underground Headquarters, Pfc. Jack P. Foxworth, automotive organizational mechanic, 3rd Material Readiness Battalion, 3rd Force Service Support Group, climbs up 91 stairs during the Battle of Okinawa tour.

Program brings joy of Okinawa to Marines

Pfc. Kathy J. Arndt

Combat Correspondent

CAMP FOSTER — Marines new to Okinawa generally have no idea where anything is and may be a little intimidated by the culture outside the gates. Commands can help their new Marines by enrolling them for the Sports, Tours and Recreation program.

Each month, commands throughout the island are encouraged to submit names to fill 75 slots.

"We need more commands to participate," said Kim Newberry, Single Marine Program Manager. "It's not good when we only have half of what we need."

Once the STAR program has the names it needs, the week of tours and activities begin.

The program falls under the Marine Corps Community Service, Semper Fit, Single Marine Program and is designed to provide a healthy, recreational quality

of life for Marines assigned to a one-year unaccompanied tour on Okinawa.

During the program Marines visit the bowling center, Awase Meadows Golf Course, a local shopping mall and Camp Foster's 25-meter pool to get a quick lesson on scuba diving from Tsunami Marine Gear.

The last activity for the Marines was the Battle of Okinawa Tour. All of the activities, except for the tour, were free.

MCCS made the week more enjoyable by providing the Marines with the free activities.

"It was fun and it showed us a lot of stuff to do on the island," said Lance Cpl. Marcus S. Grimes, administrative clerk Marine Aircraft Group-36. "We experienced a lot of stuff we wouldn't have even known about."

At the end of the week, program coordinators gave surveys to Marines. The surveys ask the Marines what they thought about the program and how it



PFC. KATHY J. ARNDT

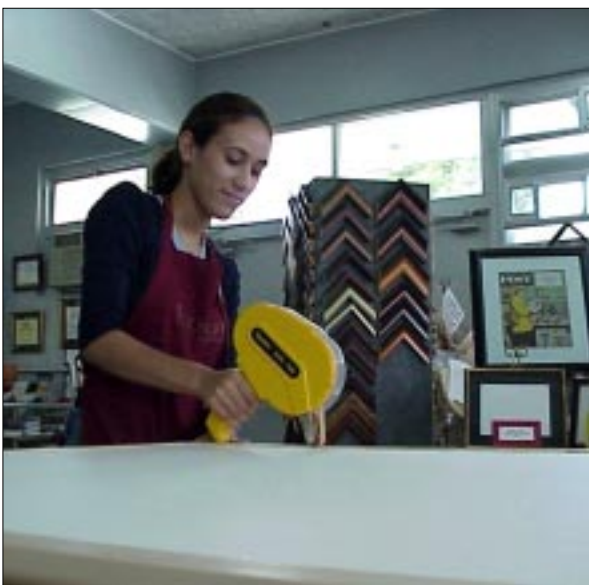
Marines participating in the Sports, Tours and Recreation program dive in Camp Foster's 25-meter pool as part of a scuba diving discover class.

can be better.

"The surveys have 100 percent input on the program," said Newberry. "The

most popular comment we get from the Marines is, 'Can you keep us another week?'"

Camps Foster, Courtney Arts and Crafts Centers get creative



PFC. KEITH R. MEIKLE

Ivette Feliciano-Achinger, who has worked for the Arts and Crafts Center for a year and a half, applies a layer of glue with a roller for the finishing touches on a frame.

Pfc. Keith R. Meikle

Combat Correspondent

CAMP FOSTER — The Foster and Courtney Arts and Crafts Centers have many different hobbies for Marines and their family members. Some people take the classes to learn a hobby that they may love the rest of their lives, while others make gifts for special occasions. There are several skills that can be learned from the classes at the Foster and Courtney centers.

"We offer an entertainment for the Marines in this community," said Betty Sue Ballard, Foster's Art and Craft Center manager. "So we try to provide them with a variety of activities to do."

The Courtney center offers classes in ceramic pottery, woodshop, pole painting, bonsai, knitting, crocheting and pottery.

For children there are classes such as T-shirt and wooden figure painting.

The Foster center has classes in framing and matting, basket weaving, wheel pottery, hand-building pottery, children's pottery, bonsai and adult art.

"The Foster center also has a special conservation

framing class for framing those limited edition and rare prints," said Ballard.

Costs for these classes range from \$25 for teen pottery to \$80 for the Shisa Lion project in the hand pottery classes. After the classes are over, students use the shop to work on personal projects in their free time for a \$2 per hour fee.

For a fee, the center provides tools and materials to help students complete every project.

"We try to save service members money by giving them the skill to make their own gifts and projects," Ballard said.

For people who do not want to make their own projects, the centers will build projects for an additional fee.

The shop has several helpers, qualified in all art projects, to assist servicemembers with projects.

"We try to assist Marines as much as we can in the shop and teach them as much as we can," said Jim Singer, the Courtney Arts and Crafts Center manager.

For more information about projects or prices call the Foster center at 645-3674 or the Courtney center at 622-7492.

The Marketplace



Automobiles/ motorcycles

1990 Honda Civic — JCI Mar 01, \$1,800 OBO. 646-5135.
1993 Honda CR 250 — \$1,200 OBO. Neil, 637-3705 or 637-4504.
1993 Nissan Praire — JCI Aug 02, \$2,695 OBO; **1991 Nissan Pulsar** — JCI Aug 02, \$1,895 OBO; **1990 Toyota Vista** — JCI Aug 02, \$2,095 OBO. 646-3045.
1992 Honda Civic — JCI May 02, \$2,000. 646-3618 or 090-7382-5647.
1991 Toyota Celica — JCI Feb 02, \$3,200. Branden, 625-3972.
1989 Honda Prelude — JCI Jun 02, \$1,300 OBO. Lloyd 637-4007.
1995 Toyota Trueno — \$2,000. Robin, 936-7088.
1990 Nissan Silvia — JCI Aug 02, \$2,500. **1985 Toyota Town Ace** — JCI Jul 02, \$2,200. 633-0737.
1988 Toyota Town Ace — JCI Jan 01, \$1,500 OBO. 633-1186.
1987 Toyota Camry — JCI Jan 01, \$300 OBO. Dave, 637-2410.
1988 Nissan Silvia — JCI Jul 01, \$2,000 OBO. Frank, 090-9784-1622.
1991 Honda Vigor — JCI Dec 00, \$2,000 OBO. 090-3792-3948.
1991 Nissan Skyline — JCI Aug 02, \$3,500. Paul, 934-0260.
1989 Honda Prelude — JCI Jun 02, \$1,300. Lloyd, 637-4007 or 637-3815.
1991 Honda Civic — JCI Sep 00, \$500. 637-4071.
1991 Nissan Sunny — JCI Aug 02, \$1,895 OBO; **1991 Toyota Sprinter** — JCI Aug 02, \$2,395 OBO; **Nissan Safari** — JCI Aug 02, \$5,695 OBO. Curtis, 646-3045.
1993 Nissan Praire — JCI Aug 02, \$2,695 OBO; **1991 Nissan Pulsar** — JCI Aug 02, \$1,895 OBO. 622-9690.
1991 Nissan Bluebird — JCI Dec 01, \$1,900 OBO. 622-8160.
1987 Toyota Camry — JCI May 02, \$1,600 OBO; **1990 Nissan** — JCI Jul 02, \$2,500 OBO; **1991 Nissan** — JCI May 02, \$1,800 OBO. 637-7772.
1990 Toyota Cresta — JCI Dec 01, \$1,600. Steve, 623-5234.
1990 Honda Civic — JCI Mar 01, \$1,800. 646-5135.
1989 Honda Concerto — Free. Pat, 646-8837.



Miscellaneous

Pet — Male Golden Retriever free to good home. 090-9658-6149.
Misc. — Laserdisc player with 50+ movies, \$400. 625-3771.
Misc. — Treadmill \$100 OBO. 637-4071.
Misc. — Aiwa Stereo, \$80; TV/VCR combo, \$150; 6' surfboard, \$50; snowboard & boots, \$150. All prices negotiable. 926-1666 or 623-7341.
Fence — Chain Link fence, 100 feet, poles, \$125. 646-5419.
Bike — Dark Blue 26" Men's Magna Fugitive Mountain Bike. 18 speed Shimano grips w/front shock absorber, \$50. Tyler, 646-6841.
Misc. — Beige/pastel sofa, \$175; three sets of cotton, beige, curtains, all three for \$125; two transformers, \$25 each. 645-3970.
Misc. — 3 piece table set, \$50; Television stand, \$25; refrigerator, \$100. Robin, 936-7088.
Lost & Found — Lost at Camp Foster Commissary on Aug. 1, gold wedding band 2 pc. Reward if found. Zulia, 646-5642, 645-3500 or Rene, 632-5109.
Boat parts — 20' boat trailer, \$1,500; tan pedestal seats, \$20; Merc outdive, \$500; Stainless 23 pitch prop, \$200. 633-4648.
Misc. — Set of 185/70R13 Nissan wheels w/covers, \$70; Toyota Surf wheels, \$100; Mag wheels w/tires, \$150; 500w-1500w transformers, \$40-\$70; Pioneer, Kenwood and JVC car stereo cassette players, \$100. 634-3409 or 633-4648.
Misc. — computer monitor, \$50; scanner, \$60. 623-4906 or 622-5198.
Misc. — Transformers, 1000w, \$50; 2000w, \$75; Carpets. 622-8160.
Camera — Sony MVC-FD91 digital camera, \$799. 622-9028 or 622-8271.
Scuba gear — Large O'Neill two piece wet suit, Talon BCD, regulator w/alternate source, console and compass, diving tool, Mares fins, gloves, booties size 10, underwater sound signal device, \$900. 637-2764.
Books — The American People Vol. 1 to 1877 (4th edition) for History 1301, \$30; Communication at work (5th edition) for Speech 1321, \$20. 636-4022.

Ads appearing in the Okinawa Marine do so as a free service to active duty military, their dependents and DoD employees. Ads are restricted to personal property or service of incidental exchange. **Ads run on a space-available basis and must be resubmitted each week.** The deadline for ads is **noon, Fridays, space permitting.** The Okinawa Marine reserves the right to edit ads to fit available space. Please include your name and the phone number you wish published. The Okinawa Marine makes every effort to ensure accuracy, but assumes no responsibility for services offered in ads. Submit ads by faxing to 645-3803, Mon.-Fri., or send an e-mail to pecktr@mcbbutler.usmc.mil

At a theater near you ...

Feature programs and start times are subject to change without notice! Second evening movies will vary when the program runs longer than 120 minutes.

Butler (645-3465)

Fri The Nutty Proffessor II (PG13); 7:00, 10:00
Sat Small Time Crooks (PG); 1:00, 4:00
Sat The Nutty Proffessor II (PG13); 7:00, 10:00
Sun Small Time Crooks (PG); 1:00, 4:00
Sun The Nutty Proffessor II (PG13); 7:00
Mon Center Stage (PG13); 7:00
Tue Flintstones (PG); 1:00
Tue Center Stage (PG13); 7:00
Wed Love and Basketball (PG13); 7:00
Thu Flintstones (PG); 1:00
Thu Coyote Ugly (PG13); 7:00

Courtney (622-9616)

Fri Flintstones (PG); 2:00
Fri Whatever It Takes (PG13); 7:00
Sat Center Stage (PG13); 7:00
Sun Coyote Ugly (PG13); 7:00
Wed What Lies Beneath (PG13); 2:00

Futenma (636-3890)

Fri Screwed (PG13)
Sat Road Trip (R)
Sun Whatever It Takes (PG13)
Mon Pokemon (G)
Wed The Nutty Professor II (PG13)

Call Futenma for start times

Hansen (623-4564)

Fri X-Men (PG13)
Sat X-Men (PG13)
Sun Small Time Crooks (PG)
Mon Love and Basketball (PG13)

Tue Love and Basketball (PG13)
Wed Center Stage (PG13)
Thu Center Stage (PG13)

Call Hansen for start times

Keystone (634-1869)

Fri Pokemon (G); 7:00
Sat Pokemon (G); 1:00
Sat What Lies Beneath (PG13); 5:30, 8:30
Sun Pokemon (G); 2:00
Sun What Lies Beneath (PG13); 7:00
Mon Coyote Ugly (PG13); 7:00
Tue Small Time Crooks (PG); 7:00
Wed Center Stage (PG13); 7:00
Thu The Nutty Professor II (PG13); 7:00

Kinser (637-2177)

Fri Coyote Ugly (PG13); 7:00
Sat Flintstones (PG13); 3:00
Sat Coyote Ugly (PG13); 7:00, 11:30
Sun Small Time Crooks (PG); 7:00
Tue Center Stage (PG13); 7:00
Wed Small Time Crooks (PG); 7:00
Thu Center Stage (PG13); 7:00

Schwab (625-2333)

Fri Shanghai Noon (PG13)
Sat Whatever It Takes (PG13)
Sat Road Trip (R)
Sun Whatever It Takes (PG13)
Sun Road Trip (R)
Mon Road Trip (R)
Tue Coyote Ugly (PG13)
Wed Coyote Ugly (PG13)
Thu Love and Basketball (PG13)

Call Schwab for start times